of this, was ſufficient to refer us to the whole Syſtem or Furniture of the Heavens. But I am afraid I become tedious. I am

Your Illuſtrious SOCIETY's,
and your moſt obedient,
humble Servant,

Findern, July 8. 1742.

E. Latham.

IV. *The Caſe of an Extraordinary* Dropſy, *communicated in a Letter from* Tho. Short, *M. D. to* C. Mortimer, *M. D. Sec.* R. S.

Sheffield, Aug. 2. 1742.

SIR,

Read Nov. 18. 1742.

THE following Caſe being ſomewhat uncommon, perhaps it may not be wholly unworthy of your Notice. Laſt *January* I was called to viſit a young Woman of Thirty Years of Age, who about Seven Years ago, had like a ſevere Fit of the Stone in her Left Kidney, with all the common Symptoms of a Stone, but by ſome Means recovered again. Three Years ago ſhe had another Fit, but got better in a few Days; though ſhe moſtly complained of a dull Pain in that Place ever after. When I ſaw her, I found her *Menſes* had been very irregular and ſmall ſince her laſt *Paroxyſm*, and totally obſtructed ſince *September*; her Pulſe very ſmall and quick, her Countenance pale and languid; a Pain at the Pit of her Stomach, towards the

the Spleen, beſides that in the Kidney; her whole Stomach and Belly full, and ſomewhat ſwelled, but harder on the Left Side than the Right; a Fluctuation of Water or Matter among the *Abdominal* Muſcles, and the *Peritonæum* very hard under it: The Right Side was full, and ſofter. She had no Appetite, little Sleep, a ſmall Cough, a little Thirſt, ſlight Fever, and much Pain. I ordered her ſome laxative, aperient, attenuating, diuretic Pills, with an antihydropic ſtomachic Mixture, the Country Air, and daily moderate Riding. She purſued this Method a few Weeks with ſome Advantage, but not ſo much as ſhe expected and deſired. Then ſhe took the Advice of another Phyſician, to no better Purpoſe. In *April* I was conſulted again by her. Her Fleſh was now much ſhrunk, the Belly fuller, Pulſe quicker, Pain the ſame, Urine ſcanty, but pale, Appetite languid. I preſcribed other things to the ſame Purpoſe as above, but with no better Succeſs. In *June* I put her on drinking *Nevil-Holt* Water (which laſt Year had cured Three of Dropſies, which was all had uſed it for that Purpoſe) and riding: Upon this ſhe made Water freely, ſlept tolerably well, had a better Appetite, leſs Pain, and much chearfuller; but the Swelling of the Belly was ſtill the ſame. Always on turning her in Bed, ſhe heard and felt a Jolting and Fluctuating of Water in the Belly: This put her on being tapped, not doubting but ſhe would recover then. Next Day I was ſent for to ſee the Water drawn off, *July* 23. but to my Surprize, on the Preforation, between Three and Four Pints of very thick, roupy, mixt Matter came away; ſome was Matter, ſome a thick white Slime, but the greateſt Part was a thick

thick reddiſh-brown Liquor, like Liver maſhed with a little Water: It could not get through the Canula, without often clearing it with a Gooſe-quill. After this came near Six Pints of clear Water or Serum, as in a Dropſy. She ſeemed much eaſier then, all the Afternoon and Night; next Forenoon not ſo eaſy, though ſhe came down Stairs to Dinner. Quickly after it, ſhe was moſt ſeverely and violently ſeized with ſuch excruciating Pain all down the Left Side to the Foot, as threw her into the moſt profuſe Sweat, often Faintings, Vomitings, *&c.* At Four o'Clock, ſhe wholly loſt both Senſe and Motion of that Thigh and Leg; at Five ſhe was inſenſible, and at Six ſhe died, *July* 24th.

Next Day the Body was opened before me, when a monſtrous Tumour on the Left Side of the Belly ſhewed itſelf, and a large Bag of Water on the Right Side appeared, which Two filled the whole Cavity. The *Abdominal* Muſcles on the Left Side were very large, flabby, bloated, and a livid pale. The *Peritonæum* uncommonly hard, thick and ſcirrous; the Liver and Spleen both much emaciated; the firſt not above Two Pound, the laſt about Two or Three Ounces; the Stomach and Inteſtines, from the *Cardia* to the *Anus*, full of ſmall, hard, white, ſcirrhous Knots, like ſmall Peas, or Hail-ſtones; the Inteſtines of a dusky yellow Colour: The Remains of the *Omentum* were mortified: The Kidneys were ſound: The *Pancreas* very ſmall and yellow. The Tumour on the Left Side (which was the *Ovarium*) being cut up, ſome Pints of the ſame Matter as was firſt drawn off in Tapping, run out: It was divided into innumerable Cells, full of different Matter, ſome as above; ſome white, thick Slime,

ſome fatty, ſome purulent, *&c.* The Partitions between the Cells very ſtrong, cartilaginous in the Middle, ſo as to reſiſt the Knife; like muſcular Fleſh below and above this Cartilage, ſo was each Cell. The whole *Ovarium*, before it was firſt broke, might weigh about Twenty Pound Weight. The Bag of Water on the Right Side, was the other *Ovarium*, wherein was nothing but like a large *Ox* Bladder, containing Nine or Ten Pints of Water; like a Bladder at the lower End, and riſing up like a crooked Horn at the other End; the Skin was very thin and ſmooth. The *Veſica urinaria* and *Uterus* were both ſound.

From the above-mentioned Account you will ſee, 1*ſt*, That here was a triple Dropſy, *viz.* One intermuſcular on the Left Side of the *Abdomen*; One in the Cavity of the Belly; One, and the largeſt of all, in the Right *Ovarium*. 2*dly*, As I have before obſerved the like in ſome others, in much the ſame Condition; in barren Women, and ſtale Maids, Tapping ſhould be very cautiouſly undertaken: Eſpecially when the whole Belly is not equally diſtended, and not a free Fluctuation of the Water heard and obſerved from Side to Side, as the Sick turn in Bed; but eſpecially if there was, or is, a ſenſible Difference to be felt in the Hardneſs or Softneſs of the Parts of the Belly, before it is diſtended monſtrouſly.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Tho. Short.